



Patricia Reed Belser

August 12, 1931 - May 21, 2019

Patricia Reed Belser, a longtime resident of Chevy Chase, MD, and Rehoboth Beach, DE, passed away on Tuesday, May 21, 2019, at her home in Rehoboth Beach. She was born on August 12, 1931 in Pittsburg, PA, daughter of the late Chester and Esther Reed.

Pat was an accomplished artist, hosting many shows in the DC and Delaware areas. She was an avid lover of the beach, with her favorite past time being spending time with family and friends. She also enjoyed playing golf, painting, bird watching and traveling. Pat was an active member of Rehoboth Art League, Rehoboth Beach Country Club and Columbia Country Club in Chevy Chase, MD.

In addition to her parents, Pat was preceded in death by her first husband, Vernon Blades Derrickson; her second husband, Dana Collins Belser; and her daughters: Andrea Derrickson Burkett and Elizabeth Blades Derrickson. She is survived by her children: Nancy Derrickson, Patricia "Trish" Derrickson (John), Dana Belser, Nancy Belser, Byron Belser (Paige) and Vohn Murphy (Daniel); her grandchildren: Elizabeth "Liz" Cherico (Blair), Patricia "Trish" Wilson (Jason), Blades Shields, Delilah "Lila" Shields, Jill Belser, Kali LaGue, O'Keefe "Keefer" Murphy, Henderson Belser and John Belser; and her numerous great-grandchildren.

All services will be private.

The family would like to extend their heartfelt gratitude to all the Caregivers and Delaware Hospice for the wonderful care given to Pat/Nama.

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Comments



“ It was on Blackthorn Street in Chevy Chase after swim team practice and a hershey bar that I first met Mrs. Belser. Vohn and I were dripping wet still in our swim suits, she was gracious, and with her warm smile asked if we'd like a dry towel and something to eat. We rushed up to Vohn's room listening to the Beatles "White Album" on the turntable. Later that night we snuck out for a night swim at the pool. And the following morning we were offered a beautifully prepared hot breakfast from Mrs. Belser, no questions asked. She had an unshakable calm and a fierce grace, time seemed to stand still in her presence. Classy and glamorous she wore these sparkly gold sandals to the pool that illuminated and reflected back speckles of sunlight on her tanned legs. With summer's arrival, I would dive under the pool water catching coins with Trish at Memorial Day events while she sat close by. She had a wide open heart and she graced every room she walked in.

Years passed and I didn't see much of Vohn or Mrs. Belser, until one summer when my Mom and her were having lunch in Rehobeth and I went to her studio and saw her paintings. It was as if a whole new world had poured itself onto me. We commissioned her to do a painting of the beach which hangs prominently in the front hallway of our beach house and tucked away in my powder room is a small painting of a tiny house with the most beautiful blue hues, greeting me throughout the day. She had a talent beyond words.

As the years progressed I'd hear stories from my Mom about Pats adventures, ones that made me laugh, reflect and even cry. We saw Mrs. Belser two months ago, Mom was worried about her so we drove to the beach and they spent some time holding hands and I guess in their own ways saying goodbye. They left each other with hugs and a smile. I was lucky to know her through Vohn, my Mom, Nancy and her art. But mostly the world was lucky to be graced by her presence. Bless her beautiful soul, your light shines on Mrs. Belser.

Gone too soon.....

Susan Rathbone, June and family

Susan Rathbone - May 30 at 04:20 PM



“ Dear Nancy, your mother was a bright star here in Henlopen Acres, sharing her talent and time with Connie Boland and I, painting together at the Art League and other sites, doing shows and filling our summers with creativity. Before that there was the store across the street from Lingos on First St Where she displayed her beautifully painted furniture. She was a shop keeper! A business owner! Lastly she connected with my hippie son a few years ago, instinctively knowing that they had much in common. She is probably out there with the stars even now. My best to you and your family, Freddie Noland



“ MY best wishes go our to all the family. Memories of many wonderful times in our sailing world. They will always be there for me.

Dave Racine

Dave Racine - May 27 at 07:11 PM



“ Dear Neighbors Nancy and Liz,
It is with great sadness that we read of your loss in the Gazette I recall how much joy she got out of seeing us walk the dog by her home. The dog of course returned her joy and always would sit on command so she could pet him. When she first arrived, she showed me her wonderful paintings, simply an amazing talent. I specifically recall one with an American flag that stayed with me as being fabulous. I so admire anyone that has the ability to see something and capture it on a canvas.

You are all in our thoughts and prayers.

Debbie Donovan - May 25 at 01:25 PM



“ There were years when Pat Derrickson, Ann McClements, Patty Wick & I were best of friends. I have one of Pat's watercolors & cherish it. When Pat was in her prime, she was an amazing woman, with great charisma, a zest for living, and an abundance of talent & creativity. Andrea, I'm sorry for your loss. Barbara Geissinger Brown Stephens

Barbara Stephens - May 23 at 10:27 PM



“ I remember you mother, Pat Derrickson Belser with such fond memories. Andrea was a childhood friend of mine, and I spent many nights at the home on Hazel Road. Your mother always took the time to take us ice skating, followed by hot chocolate once we returned home. Even more impressive, she skated with us! There were travels to the beach in Dewey and sailing with Andrea at the Sailing Club, usually joined with Beth Hastings.

The memories still make me smile when I think of her, Ann McClements, and Sarah Hastings; Three women that were kind, and generous with their time, that always greeted me at the door with a smile. They left an indelible impression on me at such a young age that remains with me today. Let's hope they are finally together and continuing their good will with others. I will always remember

Diane Duerr Partridge

Diane Duerr Partridge - May 22 at 08:43 PM